

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 285779

13

ORIGIN AF-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 ISO-00 EB-01 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:EB/IFD/ODF:RKAUZLARICH:IW

APPROVED BY: EB/IFD/ODF:JWINDER

AF/W:TWMSMITH

EUR/WE:JDOBBINS

----- 056622

P 200520Z NOV 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 285779

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM ABIDJAN NOV 16:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 10823

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BENC, IV

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR
CENTRAL SWITCHING OFFICES

REFS: A) ABIDJAN 8574 B) ABIDJAN 8489

C) STATE 226937

1. DCM HAD OPPORTUNITY NOVEMBER 15 TO TALK WITH IBRD VICE
PRESIDENT FOR WEST AFRICA ROGER CHAUFURNIER DURING LATTER'S
BRIEF STOPOVER IN ABIDJAN. CHAUFURNIER HAD SPOKEN WITH POSTS
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER BANGALI KONE AND PRESIDENT
HOUPHOUET AND VOICED IBRD CONCERN ABOUT TENTATIVE AWARD OF
SWITCHING OFFICE CONTRACT TO FRENCH FIRM CGCT IN APPARENT
VIOLATION IBRD PROCEDURES.

2. BANGALI KONE SAID THAT CONTRACT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO
CGCT FOR "TECHNICAL REASONS" WHICH CHAUFURNIER ADMITTED
HE WAS NOT QUALIFIED TO EVALUATE, AND THAT CGCT HAD
"NEGOTIATED" ITS BID TO BRING IT VERY CLOSE TO NORTH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 285779

ELECTRIC SUBMISSION. KONE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT

FRENCH OFFER TO BUILD FACTORY IN IVORY COAST HAD BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN DECISION. CHAUFOURNIER REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT RPT NOT GUARANTEE IBRD PARTICIPATION, SINCE AWARD OF CONTRACT MADE WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATION WITH IBRD, IN DIRECT CONTROVENTION OF BANK REGULATIONS. DECISION WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS IN WASHINGTON.

3. HOUPHOUET TOLD CHAUFOURNIER THAT DECISION, WHILE NOT FINAL, HAD BEEN MADE ON BASIS TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF WHOSE VALIDITY HOUPHOUET HAD BEEN PERSUADED. HOUPHOUET REITERATED WELL-KNOWN THEME THAT IVORY COAST WAS NOT A FRENCH "GAME PRESERVE," AND WAS INTERESTED IN EXPANDING AND DIVERSIFYING ITS COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS. CHAUFOURNIER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING, BUT STRESSED THE IRREGULARITY OF PROCEDURES WHICH HAD TENTATIVELY GIVEN THIS CONTRACT TO A FRENCH FIRM, AND AGAIN SAID THE MATTER WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL AND THOROUGH IBRD CONSIDERATION. HOUPHOUET SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT BANGALI KONE TO VISIT WASHINGTON "RIGHT AWAY" TO PUT CASE BEFORE IBRD OFFICIALS. CHAUFOURNIER TOOK THIS TO MEAN KONE WOULD DEPART IN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

4. COMMENT: KONE'S VISIT WOULD APPEAR PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR NORTH ELECTRIC REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS MATTER IN DETAIL WITH HIM. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH ADVISE NORTH ELECTRIC OR SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING, BEARING IN MIND THAT PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF KONE'S TRIP IS TO MEET WITH IBRD OFFICIALS. STEARNS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE285779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:EB/IFD/ODF:RKAUZLARICH:IW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760432-0617
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761128/aaaaaxza.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ABIDJAN 8574, 76 ABIDJAN 8489
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CENTRAL SWITCHING OFFICES
TAGS: BENC, IV
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006